

RESOLUTIONS.

RESOLUTION RE : REVIVAL OF THE EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : Sir I rise to move the resolution :

" This Council recommends to Government that the Education Advisory Board be revived."

Now, there was an Education Advisory Board in existence a few years ago in Travancore and in the successive administration reports of the department and the reviews by the Government, it was stated, that the Board did some good work in assisting the Director of Public Instruction in the matter of laying down broad policies. It was, as the very term indicates, a purely Advisory Committee because it was indeed very undesirable that an Advisory Committee should be given powers to interfere with the administration of the department. The idea of the Advisory Committee was copied by the Government of India and several Provincial Governments. So, as an argument for canvassing support to this resolution I may say that the other Governments followed Travancore in the matter of institution of Advisory Boards.

The one advantage of having an Advisory Board or a Committee is that several interests can be represented on it which would help in forming the policy of the Department. Private schools, business interests, parents, educational thought, all these can have due representation on the Advisory Board so that new avenues of education suited to our environment can be pressed on the attention of the Director. I need not take any more time than to read the relevant portions from the administration report of the Education Department for the year 1109. It is stated on page 5 of the report that the Advisory Board that existed in that year took up for consideration such important steps of educational interest as the extension of primary courses, the reorganisation of the Inspectorate, the recognition of the primary classes attached to the English Schools, the transformation of vernacular schools into vocational bias schools and the system of education in the colleges. At that time the Travancore colleges were under the Madras University and naturally the collegiate education also came within the consideration of the Advisory Board. Conditions have changed now and the present Advisory Committee need not pay particular attention to collegiate education at all. It is seen further that the old committee discussed such subjects as the provision of alternative subjects in high schools, the introduction of domestic science in girls' schools, the undertaking of certain surveys in the matter of employment of married women, the teaching of vernacular as the medium of instruction in English schools, the question

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of religious instruction, and the question of remission of fee-concession.

I think by the enumeration of this list of subjects that the Advisory Committee took up for consideration, the House, I hope will be convinced of the nature of the work that such a committee is expected to do. But the old committee was rather an unwieldy one as Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla pointed out to the House the other day, and even though it was unwieldy, it served a very useful purpose in advising the Government in many ways. Of course, the resolutions of the committee are not mandatory ; they are only of an advisory committee and therefore of an advisory nature. I stress that the Government may be pleased to accept this suggestion for instituting a committee. The committee need not be very big ; but to represent the different interests, it should be sufficiently large.

With these few words, Sir, I move this resolution for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar (Nominated) : May I know the probable additional expenditure that the department will have to incur on this Advisory Board ?

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : Not more than three thousand rupees a year.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai (Quilon cum Kunnathur) : Sir.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : The resolution is not seconded.

Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar : I second it.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai : Why, cannot I second it ? Sir, something like a point of order was raised that it was not seconded (*Laughter*).

Sir, I rise to second the resolution moved by my friend Mr. Balakrishnan Tampi. The revival of the Educational Advisory Board, as has been pointed out, need not necessarily mean the revival of the old unwieldy Educational Board. I would like to make some suggestions with regard to the constitution of the Board so that it may be useful to the department and the public at large. I wish to suggest that the Board should not be unwieldy. It should not be representative of interests other than educational. I can very well understand the opinion of the parents of students being represented in the Board. I can also agree to the inclusion of interests of bodies who aid the Educational Department and also of expert educationists in the committee. But I think the Board will be more of a hindrance than of help if various claims that are extraneous to the purpose of education are sought to be represented,

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and various controversies are sought to be raised, within the Board. If this is done it will only make the work of the department more difficult than in the absence of such a committee. I also wish to suggest to the Director of Public Instruction that if he is not convinced of the necessity for such a committee, he must straightaway oppose it. After constituting the body it must not be allowed to say that the Board is only an ornamental appendage.

President : That depends largely on the committee.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai : It is true that a great deal depends on the committee, but I think that Government can also do much to make the committee a useful one. Sir, I consider that an efficient Advisory Board is necessary even under the present circumstances if it could work properly. I say this because I find that ordinarily the people who are very much intimately connected with education are callous to various points of view which laymen may bring before the committee. Here, I wish to point out that the text books prepared by the Committee for the preparation of the Text-Books reveal the callousness of persons who have written some of the text-books. I wanted to point out this even at the time of the discussion of the Education Demand, but unfortunately I had no time. Sometime ago I casually happened to hear children reading a few lines from one of these text-books. Sir, I become literally furious over the callousness of persons who have written those lines for the consumption of children of the third class and the educational authorities that approved those text-books.

President : What is the kind of objection the member has on that matter ?

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai : I am saying that no man of ordinary common sense will put such difficult sentences and such grand ideas to be consumed by a child of seven or six. I had occasion to go through some of these books. For instance, the first lesson in one such text-book for a child of the third class deals with the Temple Entry Proclamation. No man of ordinary common sense or humanity will prescribe such obviously incomprehensible things for children. Unfortunately I was not able to bring that copy here, otherwise, I could have demonstrated the fact. I think there was a combination of inefficiency and callousness on the part of the persons who were responsible for the preparation and adoption of these books.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar : May I know from the member whether he has read a portion in history or geography, where it is said that the Travancore salt is inferior in quality to the imported salt and Travancore is insufficient in the matter of salt ?

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai : They are controversial questions and two opinions are possible in such cases. It does not matter much if the child forms any one opinion because it can be corrected later on. But what I am saying is the annihilation of the capacity of understanding by means of very hard words and involved sentences written without any idea of the capacity of those for whom it is intended. I can very easily demonstrate the truth of what I say if I had the book. Any layman who has some general knowledge and experience of the world will never agree to the prescription of such books. And these lessons are taught even in the model school without making anybody wiser and in all possibility making the child deformed in mind and intellect. It may appear that this is an exaggeration. And I am afraid that the Director of Public Instruction, more than any other head of the department, has got a facile way of justifying anything. He will say that the books have been prescribed by an expert body, and the opinion of men without experience cannot be accepted ; and if defects are pointed out they can be remedied.

President : There is already a committee which helps in the matter of selection of books, and how does the honourable member expect this committee to deal with the works of the other committee ?

Mr. Kottur Kunjukishna Pillai : It may be a committee of pandits and school-masters, who are not independent enough to make suggestions. They may be very erudite and learned in their own way, but here it is the proper understanding of the ordinary level of the capacity of the children that is wanted, and more than this they must have the freedom and courage to express their opinion. Other considerations, like considerations of personal gain, also weigh in the question of prescribing the text books. These pandits are text book writers themselves and would require mutual assistance. I have my diffidence as to how far an elected committee will do good work. I have to say that bluntly. But if a committee is composed of men who are interested in education, who have got some consideration for the country and the future generation, they will be able to do a great deal. But, as I have said, I am very much afraid to bring forward suggestions, because the Director will be able to stand up and convince the House that all these things do not exist and everything is all right. I have great admiration for the capacity of the Director in that direction.

Mr. A. Easwara Pillai (Kattarakara and Pattanapuram cum Shencottah) : Is it not anticipating the reply of the Director ?

President : It is apprehending it.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai : Anticipation, Sir, is very necessary. Therefore, what I suggest is that a committee like this is absolutely necessary in various matters. Various reforms can be effected. The Education Department is now confining itself to run on the same rut in which it was running without making any effort to radically change its policy. That is one of the criticisms I have to make against the department and its present head. He wants to make things as best as possible without deviating from the beaten track. I have found him rather conservative with regard to changes and rather impervious to new experiments. The committee can do a great deal in this direction. Yet, I feel that the Director is amenable to persistent advocacy and if the committee will persist the Director can be made to do a great deal of good.

Mr. T. Muhammed Ismail (Nominated) : I support the resolution. These are days of Advisory Boards and it is only fit that the Education Department which is one of the most useful departments should have an Advisory Board to advise the Director to enable him to do his work properly.

We know that an enormous amount has been spent every year for the education of people and it is only in the fitness of things that we should have an Advisory Board representing all diverse interests so that there may not be any complaint in the administration of the department. I am one with Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai when he says that everything is not all right in the matter of text books and in other matters. It should be the aim of the Government to see that proper persons are selected for the Board. The whole difficulty comes in when these Advisory Boards are constituted by persons who are unfit to do their duty dispassionately. My only contention is that an Advisory Board will do immense good only if proper persons are selected for the post.

Mr. M. Govindan (Nominated) : When I first read the resolution brought forward by Mr. Tampi, I felt some hesitation to support it. I was myself a member of the old Advisory Board and my experience was that the Board was not functioning properly. Although it had tackled many subjects, after hearing Mr. Tampi's speech and Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai's speech, I feel that a committee is not worth reviving in its old form. In the old committee representatives of the managers of schools were very well represented and they were always insistent upon their claims. So I feel that a committee of competent persons capable of giving good advice will be very useful. I particularly endorse the view of Mr. Ismail that the Education Department is one of the most important departments in the State and as such it would be well that such a department is advised by a proper committee. Of course,

the function of the committee, as Mr. Balakrishnan Tampi pointed out, is purely advisory. The responsibility will always be with the Director of Public Instruction. I do not agree with Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai in his view that the Director is rather impervious to criticism, but I agree with him in thinking that the Director is somewhat conservative. I do not forget the fact that Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai ended by saying that such a committee will be able, by its insistent advice, to persuade the Director to new lines of action and to go out of the route in which the department has a tendency to move.

With these words I support the resolution.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla (*Mavelikara and Tiruvalla cum Pattanamtitta*): Sir, I did not want to speak on this resolution. But having heard the speeches in this House, I thought I should speak a few words. I was also a member of the old Advisory Committee and my experience there makes me doubt whether a body like that would be really of help to the Director of Public Instruction. If we really look into the names of the members of that committee, I think one would be surprised to find names of persons who certainly have no idea of education and who have other commercial interests and during all my membership there I do not think some of these members have ever spoken, not because they did not want to speak but because they did not know what to speak. Such an advisory body could never be helpful to anybody. It has been said that particular interests should be represented and that all the management should be represented. I do not agree to that suggestion.

I was glad to hear the Director say that he is trying to create an atmosphere where true education could be imparted in this country. In creating that atmosphere and in introducing new ideas, he wants men, elected or nominated, who can think of education as a whole, and then suggest changes to our educational system. When the Director tries to do that, a committee, as the honourable member Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai suggested, of men who can understand the educational system and who can, without thinking of the advantages of this management or of the other management, offer suggestions, will be valuable for the advantage of education in this country. Such a small committee may function properly. I shall always feel content if we can get such type of members in all our committees. Whenever I have been looking at the names of the members of the various committees, I have felt that other influences always come into operation. Whether it be nomination or election, if we take men into the committee with different interests coming to advocate particular cases, I think it

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will obstruct the work of the Director and will not help him. If, on the other hand, Government will see—of course, Government have to make the final selection—that men who are really capable of helping the Director in his endeavour to create a right kind of atmosphere and try methods that will really introduce purity and efficiency in the system are chosen one has to support.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai mentioned about a few books published by the department. Several teachers have brought to my notice that particular lesson on temple entry. I have made no mention of that in my speech earlier, because I was afraid it may be misunderstood. Now that my honourable friend has remarked about it, I want to say a few words. I showed a few books to the Director even after we met in this Council. They were books selected by Government, though they were not published by Government. I drew the attention of the Director to two or three of them. When Government try to appoint a man to write books or when pressure is brought to bear upon the Director to select books, such a committee may be helpful. I do not agree with my honourable friend Mr. Mukkadan that the Director can wade through all the books that are presented to him, both Malayalam and English. The Director, I think, has other work also to do and in the midst of that I do not see how he can find the time to go through all these books, worthless stuff sometimes, useful at other times.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan (Nominated) : ഇപ്പോഴത്തെ ടെക്സ്റ്റ്ബുക്കുകൾ കമ്മിറ്റി ശരിയായി ജോലി ചെയ്താൽ ഈ പ്രശ്നം പരിഹരിക്കാമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നുണ്ടോ?

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla : That is the criticism that I am making about the committee. If there are people in the committee who could read through the books very patiently and help the Director, the latter could at least look at the passages that are referred to him. I was in the Text Book Committee for about twelve years and my experience was that in many cases the members of the committee themselves had not read the books. The publishers are at their door. But I do not know how many come at the Directors's door now. But we were getting 50, 100 and sometimes 200 of them and the agent of the publisher who is the most eloquent captures a member of the committee and this member becomes a very ardent supporter about the greatness of that agent's book. When Mr. K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar was the chairman of the committee, he told me of his experience in the Madras Senate. When a motion was introduced in the Senate of the Madras University, a member held up his hand though he did not know English

and when Mr. Rangaswami Aiyangar asked him why he held up his hand, he replied, "Sir, whatever you say must be right and therefore I held up my hand." Well, Sir, publishers who are eloquent can persuade members of the committee to help them. Even for a Director of such ability as the present Director, it is impossible to find the time to wade through all the books that come up. I do not generally feel that a committee where all interests are represented could ever be helpful in the case of education, however useful such a committee may be in regard to matters relating to the P. W. D. or the Commercial Transport. In regard to education where we want everything that is good and noble and righteous, we want a committee of members who have ideals and who have knowledge of things and if it is possible for Government to have an advisory body of this kind, I heartily support the resolution. Otherwise, I am afraid, I cannot support it.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan : അഡ്വൈസിബോർഡ് ഉണ്ടാക്കുമ്പോൾ ടെക്സ്റ്റ്ബുക്ക് കമ്മിറ്റി നിർമ്മാണമെന്നാണ് അഭിപ്രായം ?

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla : റി ആർഗുമെന്റ് ചെയ്യണമെന്നു അദ്ദേഹത്തിന് തോന്നിയാൽ അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്യണം. അദ്ദേഹത്തിന് തോന്നുന്നപ്രകാരം ചെയ്യണമെന്നു ഞാൻ പറയുന്നുള്ളൂ.

Mr. V. S. Arumughom Pillai (*Tovala cum Agastiswaram*): Sir, I oppose the resolution. I am sorry to have to remark that the learned mover has not made out a strong case for the necessity of this Board. In support of the resolution he read a list of the works done by the former Advisory Board. This list of works forms the recommendations in the Statham Report. In that report there was a recommendation that the Advisory Board should be appointed and the object of that recommendation was to carry out all the recommendations contained in that report. It was for that that the Board was constituted, because it was a necessity. Now, Sir, what is the necessity for a Board to be appointed? That necessity has not been clearly stated. We have got several occasions when the members can suggest new ideas and new methods. Those who are experts and those who want the existing system to be changed have got ample opportunities for making suggestions and for that matter I do not think that an Advisory Board should be constituted as suggested by the learned mover.

Sir, the seconder of the resolution, Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai pointed out certain defects in the text books but that is no reason why a Board should be appointed. I am at a loss to understand how a new Board would be able to remedy the defects in the

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text books. Now, the Government publications are being written and revised by sub-committees of the Text Book Committee. The Text Book Committee meets every year and the members of these sub-committees are not members of the Text Book Committee itself but are persons nominated or suggested by the members of the Text Book Committee. Experts and specialists in different subjects are being nominated by the members of the Text Book Committee itself and these sub-committees write the books and Government publish them. There may be defects as pointed out by several honourable members and no doubt it is our duty to point them out. But I am at a loss to understand how another Advisory Committee will be able to remedy such defects. Even such an Advisory Committee constituted from the members of the House, official and non-official, is itself liable to commit mistakes.

With regard to the conservatism of the Director, it was stated by one or two honourable members that the Director seems to be conservative and that he is averse to adopting new methods. But I am sorry to have to remark that nobody ever said that new methods suggested by the honourable members have not been given effect to by the Director.

It is not a case where honourable members suggested that new systems should be promulgated for being adopted by the committee. Some of the recommendations made by the Statham Committee were given effect to as a result of which several schools in the State are doing good work in that direction. There are also some recommendations which do not appear to be sound and some others that are not practical for adoption.

While the former Advisory Board was working we had not the benefit of a separate University. Now we have got a University of our own. There is the syndicate, senate and many other committees such as the Text Book Committee, the Examination Board etc.

While we have all these, where is the necessity for an Advisory Board to suggest new systems in respect of educational ideas, I am at a loss to see. With these words, I oppose the resolution.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan (*Karunagapally, Karthikapally and Ambalapuzha cum Shertallai*): Sir, I support the resolution. In doing so I have to bring to the notice of the House that this resolution is not exactly confined to revive the old Educational Board but for reorganising it. Persons who have sufficient experience, who know the psychology of students, who can sympathise with the views of the parents, these will have to sit in the Board and in view

of this I would suggest that election shall not be the method resorted to for picking members. If we hold elections, Sir, inefficient persons are likely to be returned.

President: Order, order.

Mr. T. Mahomed Ismail: Suppose the honourable member himself is elected.

Mr. K. M. Kesavan: Before I desire to stand for election, I think, I need not reply to this question.

To look after the best interests of the Board and to infuse new methods of education, the process of getting members by election is not quite suitable. It is not because the Director is inefficient—I believe the present Director is one of the most efficient officers but he is one of the over-worked of officers too—that this kind of a resolution has been urged here. I believe this resolution is intended just to save him from the pressure of work and to draw his attention to points which he might lose sight of. The committee contemplated by the resolution is a useful one. I therefore, support the resolution.

Mr. A. Gopala Menon: Sir, the Educational Reforms Committee suggested that an Advisory Board should be constituted to advise the Director at a time when very many reforms were on the anvil. That was in 1933. The Board met five times in the course of three years and I have a full record of the summary of speeches and of the conclusions arrived at in those meetings. Since 1936 that Board has not met. From a perusal of the papers I have collected I think that the Board has served its purpose and has ceased to exist. A question has now been raised whether another Board, not the same, not even of the same constitution, should not be appointed to advise the Director. I hope Sir, that it is not the purpose of the honourable House to instil revolutionary principles into a conservative Director by means of such a Board. I agree with Mr. Kuruvilla in thinking that there is need to canvass opinion in regard to new educational methods. There is need to bring to the notice of the department, matters which affect the general interest. There is need for giving the Director information regarding local needs and local difficulties. In that view, an Advisory Board has a definite place. But whether it would be an ornamental appendage to the Director's office or would serve a useful purpose can be examined only after the Board has been constituted and has worked. Various suggestions have been thrown out in regard to constitution and powers of such a body. The Government are not in a position at present to say how the Board would be constituted and whether it should represent various interests or various thinkers or thinking faculties. What the number of members of the Board should be

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and all that are matters of detail. I am personally of the opinion that this question requires consideration and the views expressed in the House may be carefully examined by the Director and proposals submitted to Government for their consideration and orders. Whether such a body will be competent to act as a super Text Book Committee or could be so devised as to contain authorities on language and literature so as to enable the Director to revise or examine text books already in use, these are matters in which, from a practical point of view, I have my own doubts. But I trust the help they can render in all these directions may also be considered.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: May I know whether any assistance of such a body which has some differing opinion will moderate or create carefulness on the part of the Director and other publishers to produce suitable text books?

Mr. A. Gopala Menon : The difficulty of the Government becomes all the greater. The constitution and existence of that body should create such a stir in the minds of members of other bodies so as to make them more vigilant. That point also will be considered. That is all I can say at this stage. But it will interest the honourable members to know.....

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan : ഒരു ഉപദേശക സമിതി രൂപീകരിക്കുമ്പോൾ അവരുടെ അഭിപ്രായത്തിന് ജനസാമാന്യത്തിന്റെ അഭിപ്രായത്തേക്കാൾ കൂടുതൽ വില കല്പിക്കുകയാണല്ലോ പതിവ്. പബ്ലിക്കിന്റെ പൊതുഅഭിപ്രായം ഡയറക്ടർക്കു കേൾക്കേണ്ടിയുമിരിക്കുന്നു. ആ നിലക്ക് മുന്നോ നാലോ ആളുകളുടെ അഭിപ്രായ വ്യത്യാസത്തോടുകൂടി കേന്ദ്രീകരിക്കപ്പെടുന്ന ഒരു അഭിപ്രായത്തെ ആശ്രയിച്ചു പ്രവർത്തിക്കുന്നതു കാര്യക്ഷമതയാണെന്നു മെമ്പർക്കു അഭിപ്രായമുണ്ടോ?

Mr. A. Gopala Menon : മെമ്പർ പറയുന്നതു ശരിയാണ്. എന്നാൽ ഡയറക്ടർ ബോർഡിന്റെ അഭിപ്രായം മാത്രം കേട്ടു പ്രവർത്തിക്കണമെന്നു പറയുന്നതു അത്ര ശരിയാണെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. അതിനെ ഗവണ്മെൻറു സമ്മതിക്കുമെന്നു എനിക്കഭിപ്രായമില്ല.

But it would interest the honourable member Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai to know that the text books published by the department are revised from time to time and before each revision, or at least before the last revision, opinions are invited from most of the schools in which these books are taught. Those suggestions are conveyed to the members entrusted with the revision of text books

to work on the lines suggested by those people who have teaching experience. It is true even then, they may not be perfect as the member suggested. I am perfectly willing to admit that.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai : Sir, the Director has not understood my point. My view is not that they are not perfect. My view is that they cannot be justified. If I had been able to bring the book here and read it, at once the whole point would have been clear.

President : I believe the Director would have noted that point.

Mr. A. Gopala Menon : I have read that portion, Sir. I do admit that the language is hard for the third class. In whatever class, for that matter, some words are necessarily to be taught and especially in this connexion, like the Temple Entry Proclamation, changes are difficult. But...

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai : Sir, I am handicapped. I have not got that book now. This explanation will not satisfy any reasonable man. There will be righteous indignation for any body of people for prescribing such text books for a child of seven. That is my position, Sir.

President : I shall myself make enquiries about it.

Mr. A. Gopala Menon : Well, Sir, at any rate I do not argue the point if my friend will not be convinced. It is very well-known that the language of the teachers in Malayalam schools is rather Sanskritic than Malayalam and therefore, they might not have complained to me about it.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan : സർ, ഓരോ ക്ലാസിയിലും ഉപയോഗിക്കേണ്ട ഭാഷ ഇന്നുതായിരിക്കണമെന്നു കണ്ടുപിടിക്കാൻ വല്ല സൂത്രവുമുണ്ടോ?

Mr. A. Gopala Menon : യാതൊരു സൂത്രവുമില്ല. അതു കണ്ടു പിടിക്കാൻ സാധിക്കുമില്ല.

Mr Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai : May I know, whether there is such a thing as commonsense which is a very good device ?

Mr. A. Gopala Menon : I hope the member has discovered it for himself. In regard to this particular matter, all care will be taken to simplify the language of the books and with that assurance, I hope, the honourable member will be satisfied.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : Since the Government have assured that they will look into the suggestions offered on the floor of this House, I do not think that I should press my resolution. But, I have to reply to one point that arose in the course of the discussion.

Mr. Thomas Chandiy Mukkadan : സർ, കേരക്കാൻ പാടില്ല. വളരെ പ്രധാനപ്പെട്ട ഒരു വാഷയത്തെപ്പറ്റിയാണ് സംസാരിക്കുന്നത്. അത് ഞങ്ങൾക്കുകൂടി കേരക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണം സംസാരിക്കേണ്ടതാണ്.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : Certainly, I shall be glad to do so.

I am glad that various considerations have been brought to the attention of Government in dealing with this question. I did not want to make my resolution a peg for hanging a discussion on educational policy or the contents of text books or the personnel of the committee itself. I am afraid that reference to one of the committees was rather personal. I had the honour of being the convener of a sub committee that did very good work, a certificate to myself, in ascertaining the needs of the people in regard to the Public Works department in the Kottayam Division. In the course of our sojourn, we had occasion to go to the Tiruvella T. B.

Mr. V. Sankara Menon (Trivandrum and Nedumangad cum Chirayinkil) : What is the relevancy of that?

President : It was in answer to a statement that came up on the floor of this House.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : I should answer it, because I was with my colleagues in the Kottayam T. B. Gastronomical details of my friend were wrong. Instead of freely asking us to eat some dinner, it is some non-official colleagues that obligingly staged behind for lunch.

President : There does not seem to be much harm in members of committees satisfying their ordinary desires. Even members of committees must dine and lunch.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : That apart, I am one who thinks that the personnel of a committee is better nominated till a time is reached when honourable members of the Legislature vote only on considerations of fitness to serve on committees. Instead of that, to vote for persons for the sake of one's prestige or vote for persons who cannot understand the very implications of membership would not do. All that the Government can do is to sympathise with those men but nominate the best who would usefully serve on committees. I am glad that members have realised that aspect of the matter. In passing, I would make an appeal to the House and Government that T. A. and daily allowance to the honourable members may be stopped if by so doing this inglorious rush to serve on committees could be avoided. Nobody should

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be elected as a member of the committee on communal considerations. Till that baneful communal mentality changes, it is always safe that the Committee is nominated by persons in whom Government have confidence. I am glad that different members have spoken about it. I request that Government will kindly remember the opinions expressed by the honourable members of this House also in regard to the constitution of the committee. I am sorry that certain members have spoken not in very good terms about the committee that functioned before. I also had the honour to be a member of that committee and I may say that there was nothing wrong about the constitution except that it was too large for any consultative purposes. No member of that committee, I should say, was a poor specimen. In fact it consisted of such eminent honourable members like Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla, Mr. M. Govindan and men like Messrs. P. K. Narayana Pillai, Changanacherry K. Paramesvaran Pillai and the Principal of the Scott Christian College. It shows that at least a few members there were who were particularly competent to give advice in matters of education.

President : I take it that the honourable member does not press his motion.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi : No Sir. I beg permission to withdraw it.

The motion, by leave, was withdrawn.

RESOLUTION RE : CULTIVATION OF TREES THAT SUPPLY
BEEDI LEAVES.

Mr. James Fletcher : Sir.....

President : Steps have already been taken for the cultivation of Beedy plants. The honourable member may move the resolution and I shall ask the Director to explain what has been done with regard to the matter.

Mr. James Fletcher : Sir, I beg to move that "*This Council recommends to Government that the Director of Agriculture be authorised to select suitable sites for rearing of trees that supply Beedi leaves and to plant the same at an early date.*"

President : It will be wise to listen to what has been done.

Mr. James Fletcher : Sir, I may say just a few words which may be useful.....

President : Even those useful words may not be necessary if you know what has been done by the department.

Mr. James Fletcher : I do not advertise the use of Beedi. All the same, I am taking things as they are.